



CSR forums on bias, peer review and racial disparities

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Forums

In response to concerns voiced by the external community CSR held 3 open forums in July. Availability advertised through SRO communications to reviewers and in CSR Director's Blog (June 12). Participants self-selected. Everyone who asked was invited.

- July 8: 18 participants. Discussion
- July 14: 18 participants. Discussion
- July 15: 56 participants. Webinar.
- Strong minority representation, especially Black scientists plus a range of other under-represented groups. Each meeting 1.5 hours. Many powerful statements on a wide range of issues.
- CSR captured content by reviewing session recordings , reviewing forum chat, and email; draft summary emailed to all participants for comment; feedback integrated in final report given to Advisory Council

Message

The overwhelming message CSR heard is that the extramural community is weary of slow progress and frustrated that NIH is not effectively using its power or leadership role to combat the effects of systemic racism on the scientific workforce. Participants asked for broad and urgent action by the NIH.

Content analysis: Three broad areas of concern

1. NIH peer review (bias)
2. NIH programs (funding practices, pipeline efforts, etc.)
3. Academia and the wider scientific world (barriers to success, tenure, publishing, etc.)

CSR's Mission



Center for
Scientific Review

To ensure that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews - free from inappropriate influences - so NIH can fund the most promising research.



Discussion